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NORTH-AMERICAN REVIEW

AND

MISCELLANEOUS JOURNAL.

Nº. VIII.

JULY, 1816.

New-England's Memorial: or, a brief Relation of the most Memorable and Remarkable Passages of the Providence of God manifested to the Planters of New-England in America: with special Reference to the first Colony thereof, Called New-Plimouth. As also a Nomination of divers of the most Eminent Instruments deceased, both of Church and Common Wealth, improved in the first beginning and after progress of sundry of the respective Jurisdictions in those Parts; in reference unto sundry Exemplary Passages of their Lives, and the time of their Death. Published for the Use and Benefit of present and future Generations. By Nathaniel Morton, Secretary to the Court for the Jurisdiction of New-Plimouth. Deut. 32. 10. He found him in a desert Land, in the waste howling wilderness he led him about; he instructed him, he kept him as the Apple of his Eye. Jer. 2. 2. 3. I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine Espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a Land that was not sown, &c. Boston, Reprinted for Nicholas Boone, at the Sign of the Bible in Cornhill. 1721. pp. 248, 12mo.

THIS work, of which the copy that we have used is a reprint from an earlier edition in England, contains many minute facts about the first settlement of the Plymouth colony.

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lony. It shews the hardships and perils to which the "Forefathers" were exposed; and their invincible fortitude in bearing them. They depended from the first entirely on themselves, and when other food failed, subsisted on fish, and clams often formed a principal part of their food. Perhaps the incident of meeting with *Squanto*, who shewed them how to plant Indian corn, was a circumstance that saved the colony from being destroyed by famine. This *Squanto*, who remained a steady friend, spoke English to them on their arrival, to their great surprise; he had been kidnapped some years before and carried to Lisbon to be sold; he afterwards was taken up by Sir Ferdinando Gorges, and sent to America in one of his expeditions; he ran away from those who brought him, and got to his home. This man was of the greatest service to the first settlers.

It is impossible, in perusing these early annals, not to perceive that the colony was preserved by the character and conduct of the first settlers, which were long and usefully maintained; and the prevailing characteristicks are still to be perceived in their descendants. Unfortunately, there are some persons who, in venerating their virtues, wish to impose the same habits and restraints on society, now, when every circumstance is different and adverse to it; what was then wholesome discipline and salutary policy, would now be irksome tyranny and downright absurdity. They were few, exposed to every danger and privation, seeking not for wealth, but for subsistence and self-government, and the only solace in the trials they were exposed to, was in the practices of religion in the greatest austerity; they were harsh, exclusive, and intolerant in their system; yet had as these qualities are now, they were useful then. They were often assailed and kept in commotion by some pitiful extravagance of doctrine; which now would be disregarded, except by certain amateurs, and perish of course. But to them, any innovation was a matter of the highest moment. It was either cut down at once, or ripened into importance by persecution. A single profligate character, was to them a serious annoyance. Oldham, Morton, who took possession of Mount Wollaston, and Sir Christopher Gardiner, were examples of this. Even the reveries of Mrs. Hutchinson, aided by Sir Henry Vane, threw the colony, after it had obtained considerable maturity, into very great agitation.

The first neat cattle, three heifers and a bull, which they possessed, came over in March 1624, brought by Edward Winslow. In the year 1627, they made the first division of lands; previous to this time, they cultivated the ground in common.

“Likewise this year they began to make some distribution of Lands, having had hitherto but to every person one Acre allowed him as to propriety, besides their Homesteads, or Garden plats; the reason was that they might keep together, both for more safety and defence, and the better improvement of the general Employments; which condition of theirs brings to mind that which we may read in * *Pliny* of the *Romans* first beginnings in *Romulus* time, how every man contented himself with two Acres of Land, and had no more assigned them; and *Chap. 3. It was tho’t a great Reward to receive at the hands of the People of Rome a pint of Corn*; and long after, the greatest Present given to a Captain that had got a Victory over their Enemies, was as much ground as he could Till in one day: and he was not accounted a good, but a dangerous man, that would not content himself with seven Acres of Land; as also how they did pound their Corn in Mortars, as these people were forced to do many years before they could get a Mill.

“Notwithstanding as abovesaid, so small a portion of Land served them at the first, yet afterwards for divers Reasons moving thereunto, they were necessitated to lay out some larger Proportions to each person; yet resolving to keep a mean in distribution of Lands, as should not hinder their growth by others coming to them, and therefore accordingly allotted to every one in each Family Twenty Acres to be laid out, five Acres in breadth by the Water-side, and four Acres in length.”

The following extract is a part of the account of the conduct of *Thomas Morton*, after he had taken possession of the settlement at Mount Wollaston, (Braintree.)

“After this they fell to great licentiousness of life, in all prophaneness, and the said Morton became Lord of mis-

* *Pliny* Lib. 18. Chap. 2.

rule, and maintained (as it were) a school of Atheism, and after they had got some goods into their hands, and got much by trading with the Indians, they spent it as vainly, in quaffing and drinking both Wine and strong Liquors in great excess (as some have reported) Ten pounds worth in a Morning, setting up a May-pole, drinking and dancing about it, and frisking about it, like so many Fairies, or Furies rather, yea and worse practices, as if they had a new revived and celebrated the feast of the Romans Goddess Flora, or the beastly practices of the mad Bacchanalians. The said Morton likewise to shew his Poetry, composed sundry Rythmes and Verses, some tending to lasciviousness, and others to the detraction and scandal of some persons names, which he affixed to his Idle or Idol May-pole; they changed also the name of their place, and instead of calling it Mount Wollaston, they called it the Merry Mount, as if this jollity would have lasted always. But this continued not long, for shortly after that Worthy Gentleman Mr. John Endicot, who brought over a Patent under the Broad Seal of England for the Government of the Massachusetts, visiting these parts, caused that May-pole to be cut down, and rebuked them for their prophaneness, and admonished them to look to it that they walked better; so the name was again changed, and called Mount Dagon."

When the church at Salem was settled, Mr. Higginson drew up the confession of faith, and the author says; "and because they foresaw the wilderness might be looked upon as a place of liberty, and therefore might in time be troubled with erroneous spirits, therefore they did put in one article into the Confession of faith, on purpose, about the *duty and power of the magistrates in matters of religion.*" A little further on, we have an example of what this article was. Two persons, Mr. Samuel Brown and his brother, the one being a merchant and the other a lawyer, chose to preserve the form of worship of the English Church, and they and some others assembled together, and read the form of *common prayer*. The ministers having denounced them; "the Governour and Council, and the generality of the people, did well approve of the Ministers answer, and therefore finding those two brothers to be of high spirits, and their speeches and practices tending to

mutiny and faction, the Governour told them, that *New-England was no place for such as they*; and therefore he sent them both back for England at the return of the ships the same year; and though they breathed out threatnings both against the Governour and ministers there, yet the Lord so disposed of all, that there was no further inconvenience followed upon it."

In the year 1635 a very remarkable storm occurred, and probable none of equal violence has been felt, till the gale of September last year. It is some consolation, that if the same interval takes place, it will be near two centuries before the country is visited by another.

"This Year, on Saturday the fifteenth day of *August*, was such a mighty storm of Wind and Rain, as none now living in these parts, either *English* or *Indian* had seen the like, being like unto those * *Hirracanes* or *Tufins* that Writers mention to be sometimes in the *Indies*. It began in the morning a little before day, and grew not by degrees, but came with great violence in the beginning, to the great amazement of many; It blew down sundry Houses, and uncovered divers others; divers Vessels were lost at Sea in it, and many more in extream danger. It caused the Sea to swell in some places to the southward of *Plimouth*, as that it arose to twenty foot right up and down, and made many of the *Indians* to climb into Trees for their safety. It threw down all the Corn to the ground, which never rose more; the which through the mercy of God, it being near the harvest time, was not lost, but much the worse; and had the Wind continued without shifting, in likelihood it would have drowned some part of the Country. It blew down many hundred thousands of Trees, turning up the stronger by the roots, and breaking the high Pine Trees and such like in the midst, and the tall young Oaks, and Walnut Trees of good bigness, were wound as Wyth by it, very strange and fearful to behold. It began in the South-east, and veered sundry ways, but the greatest force of it at *Plimouth*, was from the former quarter, it continued not in extremity above five or six hours ere the violence of it began to abate; the marks of it will remain this many years, in those parts where it was sorest: the Moon suffered a great Eclipse two nights after it."

* The great storm or Hirracane.

In the year 1638, three men were executed for murdering an Indian near Providence. The author observes that "some thought it great severity to hang three English for one Indian; but the more considerate will easily satisfy themselves for the legality of it, and indeed should we suffer their murderers to go unpunished, we might justly fear that God would suffer them to take a more sharp revenge." It was highly honourable to our forefathers, that such sound and high ideas of justice, prevailed at a time when prejudice degraded the Indians below the rank of human beings.

In the year 1658, there is the first mention of what the author styles "that pernicious sect called Quaquers, and had not the Lord declared against them, by blasting their enterprizes and contrivements, so as they have withered away in a great measure," he thinks both "Church and Commonwealth would have been subverted." He concludes, "let our deliverance from so eminent a danger, be received amongst the principal of the Lord's gracious Providences and merciful loving kindnesses towards New-England; for the which let present and future generations celebrate his praises." Such opinions and language are invaluable, and should be treasured up for the refutation of the narrow minded, and the alarmists, of our own times. He gives an account of each of the clergymen, who died within the period which he describes. These were many of them very learned men, and as our ancestors assimilated their condition to the theocracy of the Jews, their influence on society was paramount, and no doubt salutary. He gives one or two poetical tributes to the memory of each, but these rhymes are a very coarse kind of homespun. The book is an interesting one for every collection of American history.

A letter to a Noble Lord concerning the expedition to Canada. London printed. Boston, reprinted for Eleazer Phillips at his shop at the sign of the Eagle in Newbury Street, 1712.

This pamphlet was written by Mr. Dummer, to justify the people of New-England against the censures that were cast upon them for its failure. This is done calmly and satisfactorily. He gives the reasons, why the handful of French in Canada had the power of annoying the Bri-

tish Colonies in the manner they did, and mentions one piece of deception practised on the Indians, which shews to what extravagant lengths the missionaries proceeded: "Tis by assistance of the Indian nations, who are blindly biggotted to their superstitions, and therefore entirely devoted to their interest; which the French daily strengthen, partly by marrying among them, and so accustoming them to their wild manner of life; but principally by having their missionaries ever with them, who teach them among other things, that the Virgin Mary was a *French* lady, and that her son the Saviour of the world was crucified by the English, and therefore to destroy them is highly meritorious."

An Addition to the present melancholy circumstances of the Province considered, March 6th 1713, exhibiting considerations about labour, commerce, money, notes, or Bills of credit.

A project for the emission of an hundred thousand pounds of Province Bills, in such a manner to keep their credit up equal to silver, and to bring an hundred thousand pounds of silver money into the Country in a few years.

These two pamphlets treat upon the subjects of paper, specie, and importations, in a manner quite applicable to the present times. The latter proposes many false ideas, which were acted upon, and embarrassment and depreciation followed of course. The first of these is a very sensible, elementary treatise, on the subject of money and credit. To suppose five pounds in paper the same as five pounds in silver, the token the same as the thing itself, he thinks a doctrine of transubstantiation that no one can believe. If this be the test, however, of a good Catholick, that sect is extremely numerous in some parts of the United States.

FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

THE different publick Inspectors of Massachusetts now make annual returns into the Secretary's office, of the re-